

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
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"Georgi Benkovski" Military Aviation School

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1. The "Georgi Benkovski" Military Aviation School (Narodno Voenno Vuzdushno Uchilishte) is located at the Dolna Mitropoliya Airfield in Pleven Okoliya. 25X1

2. The school is only for pilots, and the course of studies is three years. Applicants must be less than 26 years old, have completed the seventh grade and be recommended by the Communist Party. Until 1952, only those who were graduates of the DOSO (Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Studeystvie na Otbranata; Voluntary Organization for Defense Assistance) Aero Club pilot's course were accepted. In 1952, about 200 out of 1200 applicants, including some who had not had the DOSO pilot training, were accepted at the school. Those who had completed the DOSO pilot training but were not accepted, allegedly because of political unreliability, objected to this policy. They were told by Colonel Doncho Dimitrov, a DOSO inspector of aviation that in 1953 only those graduating from the DOSO Aero Club course would be accepted. Initially two girls who graduated from the Aero Club pilot's course were refused admittance to the school. Later they were asked to enter the school for air navigation officers. 25X1

3. The entrance examination for both Aero Club members and non-members included questions on Bulgarian literature, mathematics and politics. Aero Club members were asked, in addition, questions concerning practical and theoretical aviation, air navigation and flying practices. The examination was entirely written. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. There was a Soviet officer attached to the school but as he wore no epaulets, the students did not know his rank.
5. Students in the Military Aviation School wore blue breeches, "open-type" blue jackets of the same shade with gold buttons, black ties, red officer-type caps with blue braid and boots. [] beginning in 1953, these students would wear black trousers, black jackets with closed-type collars and blue caps. During the summer of 1953 [] some students from this school wearing blue breeches, blue closed-type jackets and blue caps.

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6. Graduates of the school are commissioned as Air First Lieutenants.

School for Fighter Pilots

7. [] at Dolna Mitropoliya Airfield [] there was an Aviation School at Polikraishte Airfield in Pleven Okoliya which trained fighter pilots. Graduates of the "Georgi Benkovski" Military Aviation School who are to become fighter pilots attend the school.

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School for Aircraft Technicians and Mechanics

8. [] there is a military aviation school for mechanics and technicians located at Lovech. [] Applicants must have at least seventh grade education and be recommended by the Communist Party. The course of studies is three years. Graduates join the Air Force as Air Machinist First Lieutenant.

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School for Navigators

9. There is a school for air navigation officers located at Bozhurishte Airfield. [] the entrance requirements are the same as for the aircraft technicians school and that the course of studies is for three years.

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Parachute Course

10. There is a parachutists course at the Stara Zagora airfield.

Schools for Ground Force Officers

11. Unsuccessful applicants to the "Georgi Benkovski" Military Aviation School were advised to apply to a school for tank officers located in Botevgrad. []
12. There is a school for artillery officers located in Kolarovgrad. Gimnaziya graduates between 18 and 26 years of age who have been recommended by the Communist Party are accepted. The course of studies is three years. Graduates join the Army as First Lieutenants.

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Military Primary Schools

13. [] there is a military school in Sofia called "Suvorov" which accepts sons of Communist families who are of primary school age.
14. [] there is a Naval school in Stalin called "Nakhimov" which has the same requirements as the "Suvorov" school.
- [] Comment:

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1. Possibly a field in the vicinity of Polikraishte (N 43-12, E 25-38), Gorna Oryakhovitsa Okoliya, Pleven Okrug.

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